

SORTI EXTRA.

PRICE ONE CENT.

EXTRA ALL IS DARK.

Crowner's Quest Unable to Solve the Kniffin Murder Mystery.

VERDICT OF THE JURY TO-DAY.

The Grand Jury Will Now Try to Unearth the Tragedy.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 28.—The Coroner's jury investigating the murder of Mrs. Myra Kniffin, of 238 Broad street, on the night of Jan. 3, after being out from 11 o'clock last night, notified the coroner at 2:45 o'clock this morning that they were ready to report.

Coroner Bower had stretched himself on a sofa in an adjoining room, feeling satisfied that there would be no verdict for some hours to come. He was aroused, and the jury filed into the court-room.

Foreman Sterling handed in the following verdict written out on a sheet of foolscap:

"We, the jury, do find that the said Myra Kniffin came to her death on the night of Jan. 2 or the morning of Jan. 3, 1930, by the administration of chloroform in the hands of some person unknown to the jury.

"Your jury are further of the opinion that our labors have been hampered by the withholding of important testimony from this jury by which we might have arrived at a different verdict.

"We are therefore compelled to refer the matter to the Grand Jury for the further developments of the case."

The jurors were then discharged with the thanks of the Coroner.

It is understood that the members of the jury, while out, had some lively talk about the case, and that the Coroner had named at least Miss Purcell in their verdict.

They recognized that the evidence before them did not indicate her except by general suspicion, but some of them thought she ought to be held anyhow so as to pave the way for indictment by the Grand Jury.

The final decision reached was that it would serve the purpose just as well to state that there were reasons why the Grand Jury should give the case its attention.

Prosecutor Stockton's action throughout the case has been rather singular, but recently it has called for severe comments by press and public. He last week directed Coroner Bower under no circumstances to give the case to the jury, but he (Stockton) advised.

The Coroner accordingly adjourned the case over to yesterday, and by so doing brought down on himself all sorts of criticism.

Up to last night he had heard nothing from the Coroner, and as there was no further evidence to give the case to the jury, he (Stockton) advised.

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HURLED FROM THE WINDOW.

A Crazy Cigar-Maker Murders His Five-Year-Old Son.

Tried to Throw His Aged Mother After the Boy.

John Votzil, thirty years old, a Bohemian cigar-maker, was seized with an epileptic attack in the tenement 121 Pitt street, this morning, threw his five-year-old son out of a fifth-story window and seized his aged mother to throw her after him, but was overpowered and bound before he could carry out his mad purpose. The child is lying in Bellevue Hospital, the father raging in a madman's cell a dozen paces from his cot.

Votzil was a quiet, inoffensive man, and something of an inventive genius, but credited with being a "crazy" for some time.

Six years ago when he married he was out of his head for a while, but recovered. A year ago his wife died, leaving him with the boy Louis and his aged mother to take care of.

Two weeks ago Votzil was laid off from work.

This morning he went out to buy some shoes. He came home tired, and put the child in the front room on the pretext that he wanted rest.

He pulled off every shred of clothing, and picked up his boots battered and soiled, and as he thought of the state of his clothes, he thought of the state of his mother and dragged her towards the window.

But the frightened woman's shrieks had roused the neighbors.

She fought her son like a tigress and hampered on the wall, guiding the rescuers to the door.

Two of them burst in just in time to prevent a second murder.

They fell upon the madman and tried to tie his hands with a cloth, but he could not be restrained, and he rushed in and ended it.

Once again he had been the boy's father, and as he thought of the state of his clothes, he thought of the state of his mother and dragged her towards the window.

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BONDSMEN MUST PONY UP.

Attachment Issued Against One of Lounsbury's Sureties.

Fundamental of the Dead Cashier at His Home in Hackensack.

Postmaster Van Cott was not ready to make his statement in regard to the amount of the late Cashier Lounsbury's embezzlement this morning.

Acting Cashier Wood is still going over the back accounts, and says his assistants work every night till 10 o'clock. The undertaking involves much more labor than was at first anticipated. All the back payrolls, checks and payments have to be gone over.

It has not been discovered yet when or how Lounsbury took the missing money, but there is nothing to show that he did not steal it within a few days before the robbery was found out. This is Postmaster Van Cott's theory.

The amount of the loss has been ascertained up to the present time, will not exceed \$248,000, and the bondsmen will be held for it out that amount.

None of them have yet called upon the Postmaster, and have placed their affairs in the hands of Col. George Bliss, the lawyer. They say they will contest the payment of the penalty on the ground that they were not present when the safe was opened.

Only one attachment has been issued against the bondsmen, and that is against the property of Theodore P. Hoffman, Lounsbury's partner. It was signed late yesterday afternoon by Judge O'Brien, or the Supreme Court, on the application of Alfred J. Walker, the Postmaster's counsel.

It was granted solely on the ground that Hoffman was a non-resident of the State, and there are no attachments against Mr. Washburn or Mr. Moorman, the other bondsmen.

The value of Mr. Hoffman's property in Thirty-fourth street, which was owned jointly with Lounsbury, is not definitely known, but it is believed to be sufficient to cover the amount of Postmaster Van Cott's loss.

Mr. Walker says he has no idea what Lounsbury's worth at the time of his death, and only the administration of his estate will show whether, as is claimed by his friends, he had property to the value of \$248,000.

It is rumored that Lounsbury speculated heavily recently in Wall street, and that he had lost a considerable amount in "futures" in Sugar, Trust certificates and Western Union shares.

HACKENSACK, N. J., Jan. 28.—The funeral of the late Cashier Lounsbury was held here late this afternoon. The body lay in a rich casket in the parlor of the house of his wife, friend began to arrive in the late afternoon.

A delegation of Post-Office employees came here by the Susquehanna road, viewed the remains and returned to New York.

Dean Holly, of Christ Church, read the Episcopal service. Mrs. Lounsbury, his two elder children, and the father, were in the casket.

The pall-bearers were Asa W. Dickinson, A. D. Campbell, B. L. W. Hanfield, Fred Brown, Cornelius Eckerson and Smith Harris.

It is estimated that 600,000 gallons of oil were destroyed.

4:30 P. M.—The police report the fire under control, and no lives lost. The loss cannot yet be estimated.

WAS ROBBERY ATTEMPTED?

Additional Facts in the Trial of Mrs. Bocuto for Murder.

An attractive-looking Italian woman, about thirty years old, sat in Part III of General Sessions this morning and eagerly listened to the testimony of her countrymen. She was Assunta Bocuto, and on the effect of her countrymen's testimony upon the mind of the jury depends whether she shall be legally killed by electricity for the murder of Amelia Verrato at 61 Jones street, last night, or be released as innocent of the terrible crime.

Andrea Fiori, a barber in the employ of Salvatore Verrato, husband of the murdered woman, testified this morning concerning the alleged robbery of the son of the murder, after the homicide occurred.

He saw Mrs. Bocuto come from under the door of the building, and when she was arrested and taken to the Oak street police station. She explained: "I'm innocent. I want to tell my story, and then I can go home."

Maria Scherazo, mother of the murdered woman, testified this morning concerning the alleged robbery of the son of the murder, after the homicide occurred.

She saw Mrs. Bocuto come from under the door of the building, and when she was arrested and taken to the Oak street police station. She explained: "I'm innocent. I want to tell my story, and then I can go home."

Giuseppe Scattoni, Bocuto's brother, testified this morning concerning the alleged robbery of the son of the murder, after the homicide occurred.

He saw Mrs. Bocuto come from under the door of the building, and when she was arrested and taken to the Oak street police station. She explained: "I'm innocent. I want to tell my story, and then I can go home."

Assunta called the witness into the little room and said:

"I cannot lend you \$100, because I haven't got it," replied Mrs. Scherazo. "They went out into the big room, again and again."

"You will have to give me \$100," said Mrs. Scherazo indignantly.

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ALL ABLAZE!

Conflagration Raging in the Oil Works at Hunter's Point.

CAUSED BY AN EXPLODING STILL Standard Oil Company the Losers —No Lives Reported Lost.

There is a fierce oil fire raging in Hunter's Point.

It started at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. It was caused by the explosion of a still in the Standard Oil Company's plant on the river front.

Within an hour it had enveloped everything inflammable within a radius of five blocks.

The fire gained headway so rapidly that reinforcements had to be summoned to help the Fire Department of Hunter's Point in fighting the flames.

Twelve stills full of oil were destroyed in rapid succession.

A crowd of many thousand people went from this city, Brooklyn and other adjacent places to see the blaze, which was terribly grand.

The firemen could make little or no headway against the flames. Water was scarce, and the intense heat served to keep them at a distance.

In addition there was the fear that one of the big oil tanks would explode at any moment. They are huge iron affairs, sunk in the ground, and covered with iron shutters.

These received the special attention of the firemen, who directed as much attention to pouring water on them as they did to putting out the blaze.

There was a large force of policemen on the scene, but they were totally inadequate to cope with the crowd of people who came pouring in from every direction.

It was reported that three men who were at work about the still which first exploded had been burned to death.

This created intense excitement, and a volunteer corps of firemen were about to take all risks and see if the bodies were about the still, when one of the men appeared and answered for the safety of himself and his comrades.

It is estimated that 600,000 gallons of oil were destroyed.

4:30 P. M.—The police report the fire under control, and no lives lost. The loss cannot yet be estimated.

MURDER IS SUSPECTED.

Peddler Dais Found Dead in His Brooklyn Store.

The dead body of John Dais, alias Anderson, an old Italian fruit vendor at 28 Front street, was found this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock in his little store, and the police of the Second Precinct suspect that he was murdered here.

He was found lying on the floor of the building, which he leases and sublets to families.

Mrs. Mary Hickman occupies a front room on the third floor of No. 28. She was visited last night by Kate McDonald, a red-nosed woman, thirty-three years old, well known to the police.

The two women were drinking beer, and becoming noisy. Mrs. Hickman, who was in the adjoining room, No. 26, and went to Mrs. Hickman's and demanded that the noise be stopped.

She started down the stairs, and according to one story she struck Dais in the head with a bottle. Another story says she pushed him down the stairs, and he fell and died.

Italian living in the house told the police that the woman was seen by a little girl entering Dais's store and at her snatching the door away from her. Shortly afterward Dais's dead body was discovered.

Detective-Sergeant Noonan was detailed to hunt up the McDonald woman, and it is thought she will be captured before nightfall.

Dais was a peaceable old man. He leaves a wife and five children.

FATAL SNOW-DRIFT. —During the storm yesterday a snow-drift at Lozano street, ten miles above here, buried a house and the inmates were killed. Many families at Sierra City, fearing a snow-drift, have left their homes and taken refuge in the local hotels.

Two houses of the town are already reported to have been destroyed by slides. A Chinaman started from Sierra City to his cabin, about a mile distant, but lost his way and perished in the snow, which he never saw at level.

They Are Frozen In Now. —San Francisco, Jan. 27.—The railroad officials at Sacramento succeeded in having communication for a short time last night with the Truckee office on the eastern slope of the Sierra Mountains, when it was learned that the snow-drift was still deep on the track between that place and the station five miles west of there.

The first was that of Joseph Platt, who succeeds himself as Building Commissioner. The second responsibility was that of Thomas A. Wilson, President of the Board of Assessors.

Commissioner Platt and Assessor Wilson Resignations in Brooklyn. —Two resignations were made to-day by Mayor Chauncey of Brooklyn.

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OUR UNCLEANED STREETS.

The Magnates' Application for an Injunction Denied.

PLAYERS' LEAGUE MEN HAPPY. Judge O'Brien Sees the Reserve Rule's One-Sidedness.

The Public Works Department has the power to tear up the streets and to cover the newly paved places with a sprinkling of dirt, which cannot be removed by the street cleaners for a certain time, while the Board and the police have control over the streets and the city.

He said that the work of cleaning the streets could not be done thoroughly until snow was given to the Street-Cleaning Commissioner to clean the streets whenever it seemed necessary.

There was something of gloom in John B. Day's office at 121 Maiden lane when the reporter called there.

Mr. Murray, "looks like that," said the half-lazy Ward and victory was averted all over it. It is undoubtedly a victory for the Brotherhood.

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